



## Presidential joggers

Jogging is a physical, as well as spiritual, discipline to the newly elected Home Mission Board president, Larry Lewis. He uses 25 minutes for prayer and another 10 minutes to listen to scripture tapes on his Sony Walkman. Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., and his wife, Betty Jo, often run together through a local park overlooking the Mississippi River. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon.)

## Witnessing

# Baptist Men Council adopts measure of effectiveness

By Bill Bangham

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The general council of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men, meeting March 20-21 at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here, voted to establish a means for testing effectiveness of its organization.

Bill Gurley, a businessman from Memphis, challenged the council to adopt witnessing for Christ as that measure.

"One of the yardsticks to measure the effectiveness of this organization has got to be how many people come to know Christ because of us," said Gurley.

"I hope this organization has witnessing as its utmost priority."

Gurley shared his efforts, through a foundation he and his wife, Betty, have formed, to help finance Southern Baptist churches in new work areas with interest-free loans.

"God has given me the ability to make money, and I'm trying to channel it back," said Gurley. "But that isn't the real story. No amount of money can buy a soul. (One-on-one witnessing) is the greatest joy of my life, and you don't delegate that to anyone."

The council responded to his challenge by adopting a resolution that witnessing be the measure of effectiveness for the organization.

"We are on the threshold of direct action rather than planning," said Georgia layman Ed Price, president of the Fellowship of Baptist Men in commenting on the growing vitality of the new organization.

The National Fellowship of Baptist Men was formed in 1983 and is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission. Ed Bullock is executive director.

Its purpose is to help laymen discover ways of utilizing their vocational skills, hobbies, and interests in home and foreign missions through their state Baptist conventions.

State fellowships include agriculture, business, communications, construction, entertainment, education, health care, Hispanic men, law and government, lay evangelism, prison ministry, renewal, sports and recreation, transportation, and veterinary medicine.

In other actions, the council affirmed reports of ongoing activities, agreed to sponsor a national softball tournament in mid-September and to host the first triennial meeting of the national fellowship Nov. 20-22. Both events will be held in Memphis. The triennial meeting will convene at Bellevue Baptist Church.

Program personalities will include Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss.; James Smith, president, Brotherhood Commission; Marjorie McCullough, president, Woman's Missionary Union; Adrian Rogers, president, Southern Baptist Convention; Bob Banks, executive vice president; Ron Boswell, volunteer enlistment, Foreign Mission Board; and Kellye Cash, Miss America 1986. It will be open to anyone interested in volunteer missions service.

Bangham writes for Brotherhood Commission.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 30, 1987

Published Since 1877

# Lewis hopes presidency can rally divided SBC

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — "I hope my presidency of the Home Mission Board can be a means of rallying our convention around the overarching goal of reaching America for Jesus Christ," Larry Lewis said.

Lewis made the comment during a news conference following his election as president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board April 10.

"I hope we can put the squabbles, strife, and dissension behind us and move on toward that overarching task," he added.

Lewis, 52, also said: "It would grieve my heart if my election is the source of greater strife and discord (in the convention). I am beholden to no man, beholden to no group of men. Nobody met somewhere and pulled me out as their candidate."

He said he had been recommended to the seven-member search committee by a "pastor's wife, who was washing dishes and thought her former pastor would be a good man for the job."

Lewis, president of 800-student Hannibal LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., dealt with doctrinal integrity, the role of women in the church, abortion, the SBC Cooperative Program budget, and charismatics as he met with the news media following his election.

Lewis was asked if future staffers and missionaries would have to profess faith in a personal devil and a literal hell in order to work for the Atlanta-based agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. A reporter noted faculty and staff at the small Missouri College are required to agree with the doctrinal stance in order to work for the school.

"I think the Baptist Faith and Message Statement is an adequate statement for the Home Mission Board. I do not anticipate expanding it," Lewis said.

He added he believes "quite strongly that those who would lead denominational programs such as evangelism, church growth, and church planting should be people of impeccable doctrinal integrity."

"Frankly, I don't believe the policies we now have would allow us to hire in a professional position people who did not believe in a personal devil and a literal hell," he added.

Lewis said he will be "involved" in the hiring of future staff members and will discuss their views of Scripture before employment.

He said the convention has gone on record — "and overwhelmingly so" — as believing that Article I of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement on the Bible means the Bible is historically, scientifically, theological-

"I do not feel people ought to be playing word games with a clear statement of faith . . . It says what it means and means just what it says," Lewis added.

"As we employ professional staff in the future, we will be very careful about moral integrity and doctrinal integrity . . . If we have a person in a significant staff position who has questionable theology, it causes an affront to the whole denomination," he said.

Lewis was asked if the statement means that in the future he will hire only professional staff who agree with his interpretation that the Bible is historically, scientifically, theological, and philosophically accurate in every respect, Lewis responded, "Yes, sir, that would be an accurate statement of my position."

Lewis also responded to other issues:

**Women** "I personally never have been able to discover from Scripture justification for the ordination of women, either as pastors or deacons. The biblical guidelines are very explicit that those who are ordained to lead the church in a pastoral role should be men."

He added the convention in 1984 had spoken against ordination of women.

"Regardless of how I feel about an issue, it behooves us to concur with the direction given us by the convention."

When a reporter pointed out the vote on women in 1984 passed by a narrow margin, Lewis said: "Seldom does a resolution represent unanimous consent."

He added the HMB should reflect the majority view and "be kind, loving, and caring to all people."

He added, however, he concurs with HMB action declining to provide support to churches with women pastors. He noted the question is who the HMB will commission and support financially.

"We feel we cannot implement agency policy that is diametrically opposed to that which the convention has expressed. That is true with tongue speaking or women's ordination. We have no option but to go by that which has been given us by the convention."

"We need to take careful note when the SBC meets in annual session, drafts a resolution, and approves that resolution. That is a communicate to the agencies, and I think we need to listen carefully to it."

**The Cooperative Program** "The Cooperative Program is a marvelous system. I strongly support the Cooperative Program and am opposed to negative designation."

He said churches which withhold support are "like children who take their ball and bat when the game is

not being played their way. That kind of immaturity is unbecoming a person who is part of the community of God and a great denomination such as ours."

"I think our support should be consistent, and if there is something in the system we don't like, then we can work to improve it or change it. If we withdraw our support, it seems to me we have forfeited the right to really have much influence in changing what we feel is a matter of concern."

**Charismatics** "I have never spoken in tongues and don't expect that I will," he said, in response to a question about the status of proposed action by the HMB to decline to appoint or commission people who are "involved in the charismatic movement."

"I don't think we should be part of employing or commissioning someone who is involved in speaking in tongues, but I am reluctant to see us invade the privacy of someone's prayer closet. How one prays in private should be private, and we should be very cautious in dealing with it."

**Abortion** "I am a strong advocate of pro-life. I think that is the biblical position and in accord with the resolutions passed by the SBC since 1980. I am opposed to abortion except to save the life of the mother."

"I do feel the unborn baby is a human being and to terminate a pregnancy is to terminate the life of a human being. If God chooses to terminate it through miscarriage or stillbirth, that is God's election, but it is not man's prerogative."

Lewis said he believes the matter of abortion should be dealt with by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission but would like to see a "discussion by the board about crisis pregnancy centers as to whether the establishment of such centers by the HMB would be feasible and practical." The HMB operates Sellers Home, a residence for unwed mothers in New Orleans.

**Missions** Lewis said he had been called to be a missionary while in seminary, and about a year ago had begun to feel he would again become involved in missions work.

"God called me to be a missionary, and I don't think I will ever be happy until I am back in missions," he said.

**His commitment** Lewis told how his great-grandfather, Marcellus Whiteside, "reportedly started more Baptist churches in Missouri than any other man. He started 46 churches, primarily in northeast and north central Missouri."

"He was a church planter at heart, and so am I."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## Village Mother's Day Offering

May 3 is a significant day for at least two reasons. In the first place, it is Senior Adult Day in the churches. This is a Church Training-Family Ministry emphasis, and it is highly significant. Senior adults make up the fastest growing segment of our society and soon they will outstrip youths in population numbers. It is estimated that by 1990, one out of every eight persons in the United States will be 65 years of age or older. At the same time, the number of children and teenagers will fall below 30 percent of the total population for the first time in U.S. history.

In the second place, May 3 will kick off Christian Home Week, which is a Church Training-Family Ministry-Sunday School emphasis. Christian Home Week will culminate with Mother's Day on May 10.

And Mother's Day also has a special significance that needs to be noted at this time. It is the time for the annual Mother's Day offering for the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village. Make no mistake, folks, meeting those needs at the Children's Village is a difficult proposition at this time. The economy has caused church incomes to level off, but Children's Village expenses are beginning to inch upward.

The Village is a haven for any child or young person who needs it, and that

means expenses.

Yet, we as Baptist Christians are not able to turn these dependent children away from our doors. They come to us expecting shelter. In many instances, they have no place to go. We must help them.

The annual Mother's Day offering for the Children's Village is our opportunity to be effective in providing for these children and teenagers. Needs are great, and sometimes they are desperate.

The Children's Village doesn't ask questions. If the child needs help, he finds it right then. And it is all of us helping to provide for the children that is needed. How effective we will be in taking care of their needs is up to us. Mississippi Baptists should provide close to \$300,000 for this offering. That still would not be enough, but it would be better than we have been doing.

The Children's Village provides living arrangements for more than 600 children each year. An offering of \$300,000 would provide only \$500 per resident. They need clothes. They need food. They need housing. They need guidance. They need schooling. All of these things cost money.

Let's not let these children down. We will never see most of these children who pass through our doors in this ministry. But the ministry is just as real and just as needed anyway. Let's

give generously to the Mother's Day offering for the Children's Village.

In this day and time, we are used to having those engaged in fund-raising do everything possible for us. For sure, the fund-raisers provide us with envelopes in which to mail the donations, but we don't need envelopes. There should be a great outpouring of money through Mississippi Baptist churches on Mother's Day that would be sent in to the Children's Village to take care of these young people.

We have promised them we would take care of them. While we weren't paying enough attention, the financial picture for the Children's Village sort of got out of focus. The income went down and the expenses went up.

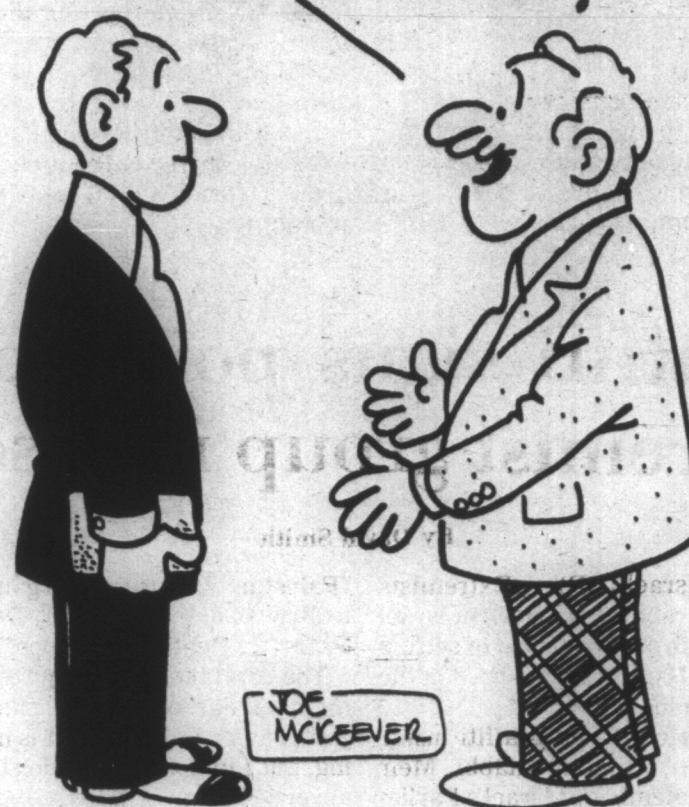
There is a simple solution for this. It is more income.

The Children's Village will continue to need the ongoing donations that come in every week. This is the lifeblood of the institution. The Cooperative Program helps greatly; but with all of the other designations, it can't provide enough money by itself.

We must keep up the regular giving through memorials and other provisions. And we must provide a significant offering for Mother's Day for the Children's Village.

Haywood N. Stubble:

THE PART I LIKED BEST  
WAS WHEN YOU LOST  
YOUR PLACE  
AND ENDED UP  
PREACHING LAST WEEK'S  
SERMON AGAIN!



## Guest opinion . .

## The association: churches growing together

J. Ray Grissett

The Associational Emphasis Week, May 18-24, 1987, will be observed by the seventy-six associations in Mississippi. They will be celebrating, teaching, and otherwise emphasizing the theme of the association: Churches Growing Together. This emphasis and the Bold New Growth-Mississippi emphasis compliment each other.

The theme for the week affirms the unity and interdependence of Baptist churches in association. Three aspects of the theme are significant:

First, churches in association grow together in fellowship. One vivid description of a Baptist association is "a family of churches." Churches in association share a common heritage — they are spiritually and doctrinally kin. Because of that heritage, churches in association recognize their relatedness and strive to develop mutually supportive relationships. In a Christian sense, the model for this fellowship can be described as "Koinonia," that intangible yet vital sense of community.

Second, because of their relation-

ship in association, individual churches grow or mature. The relationship of churches in association does not take away the strength and individuality. The association enables each church, in a sense, to realize its potential to become. Churches in association learn that by giving of themselves they do not lose a part of themselves. Rather, they gain something.

The association helps to strengthen local church programs by offering relevant training opportunities. Also, the association helps to expand an individual church's sense of being on mission. Through their relationship in association, churches can develop a more holistic perspective toward their community.

Third, as churches grow individually, the association of churches itself is strengthened. A stronger association of churches is born out in creative mission strategies to reach community residents. Bridges are built to cross barriers of culture, ethnicity, socioeconomic status. New churches are

begun and developed in answer to pressing needs.

In association, churches learn that they can do together what cannot or would not be done separately. There is strength in unity.

Thus, churches in association grow together in mutual care and support.

## Music group launches hymn search

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference will launch an annual hymn search to encourage the writing and composing of church music, said Paul Hammond, editor of publications for the conference and fine arts dean at Oklahoma Baptist University.

One hymn, selected by the conference's executive council, will be printed in the program and sung during the annual meeting of the conference.

Each year's hymn will be placed in a file to be made available to hymnal committees, editors, and publishers.

The competition is being establish-

ed because new hymns always are in demand by churches, Hammond said. And, the churches as a whole are strengthened in their mission endeavor.

J. Ray Grissett is associational administration consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The theme for this year's contest is "Music and Missions."

"We are looking for a strong missionary statement concerning the sharing of the Good News at home, in our nation, and in our world," Hammond said.

Any member of the music conference is eligible to submit hymns. Non-members may become eligible by becoming regular members, for a \$20 annual fee, or associate members, for a \$10 annual fee, of the conference.

The conference seeks original hymn

## Ministers plan "Jericho march"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — More than 2,000 black ministers are planning a "Jericho March" on Washington, D.C. this May.

"We're going to bring down the walls of racism, just like the march that brought down the walls of Jericho," explained Al Sharpton of the Washington Temple Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. Organizers hope the march will draw up to 50,000 people to combat what they call a resurgence of racism.

texts, with or without music, that are written in inclusive, contemporary language.

The hymns must also be at least three stanzas long. They should be submitted in three non-returnable copies and should not have the name of the author on any copy. The deadline for entering the first contest is Jan. 1, 1988.

Guidelines may be obtained from Mary June Tabor, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 1141 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73103.

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## Gulfshore renovation plan to increase size by half

A committee developing a plan to enlarge Gulfshore Baptist Assembly voted final adjustments to their plan last week.

The plan includes adding half again to the existing space at the Pass Christian retreat.

Currently, there are 36 rooms with two beds, four efficiencies, and 32 rooms with four bunk beds. The renovations will add 18-two bed rooms, two more efficiencies, and 16 bunk rooms.

Also, an additional serving line will be added to the cafeteria and the seating capacity there will be doubled. Meeting room space will be increased commensurately.

As plans now stand, the committee, headed by Frank Gunn of Biloxi, will let bids in July, open them in August, and meet that month to make a recommendation to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Board will consider recommending to the November Mississippi Baptist Convention that money be borrowed to do the building.

Earlier difficulties over the potential increase in insurance costs at Gulfshore have been delayed since, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the convention board, "We have decided to continue to purchase insurance until costs become prohibitive."

## Graffiti signs point to extremist group in arson

By David Smith

ACRE, Israel (BP) — Extremists praising a rabbi well known in Israel as anti-Arab are suspected of setting fire to the Baptist center here in the early morning hours of April 12.

Investigators found graffiti inside the church extolling Rabbi Meir Kahane, a member of Israel's Parliament, as "our example" and "messiah."

A neighbor, noting light inside the church, then smoke outside, called the police at 1 a.m. The witness, a Muslim who occasionally had visited the congregation, reported she saw no unusual activity before the fire.

The arsonists stacked pews, Arabic and Hebrew Bibles, and songbooks near an organ, poured gasoline over the pile, and set it aflame.

The congregation's 35 worshippers do not own the building. The Anglican church property suffered only partial damage, since few of the building materials were flammable.

Other graffiti scribbled on the walls in Hebrew included: "Arab Christians go home to Islamic countries . . . Death to terrorists . . . Death to missionaries . . . Death to

(Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir) Arafat . . . Death to PLO . . . Death to the pope."

The caretaker of the church also a member, Sameer Sim'an, said, "I'm just praying to know what is happening, but I'm not angry. I don't blame anyone. I know I need to open the church again with more (security) lights.

"Maybe this is the work of God," he continued. "We need to turn this to good. Maybe people in town will hear about this, and we will have opportunity to witness to them about Christ.

"If they think because of this we will close the congregation, this is a big mistake. We need to open and begin again seriously, Lord willing."

Ibrahim Sim'an, pastor of Haifa Baptist Church as well as Acre Baptist Center, described the extremists as "sick."

"They give the sickness a theological and religious name," he said. "I don't think they are less dangerous to the state of Israel than the severest enemy from outside."

David Smith writes for Southern Baptist representatives in Israel.

## Nominations for boards asked by state committee

Persons interested in making a nomination to Mississippi Baptist Convention boards, commissions, and agencies are invited to do so by writing to the Committee on Nominations, in care of the executive director's office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Members of the Committee on Nominations choose nominees for the Convention Board, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Biracial Baptist Commission, Board of Ministerial Education, Baptist Foundation, Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, William

Carey College, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Hospital, and any other group referred to it by the convention.

These nominees are then elected by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November.

A nomination form is available from the executive director's office which asks for general information on the capabilities and eligibility for the person nominated.

Members of the Committee on Nominations are: Mrs. Julia Otis, chairperson; Leonard McCullough; Sonny Adkins; Roy Myers; and J. Roy McComb.



The Dedication and Open House for the new Associational Building for the Washington County Baptist Association, located at 1431 S. Colorado in Greenville, was observed April 12, with 150 people in attendance. Dan Robertson, moderator, presided over the dedication services and Earl Kelly executive secretary, MBCB, preached the dedication sermon. Roy D. Raddin, director of missions, presented a historical perspective of the association and James Smith, chairman of the building committee, recognized all those who had a part in the construction.

The new associational building was dedicated debt free. The building, plus the land, cost \$127,000. This money came from the sale of the old associational property in Greenville, plus the interest earned while the new building was being constructed.

The new building has 2,400 square feet which includes an office for the director of missions, the secretary, and the family counselor. The building also includes a large conference room for 57 people, a kitchen, two restrooms, two closets, a work room for the secretary, and a media/storage room.

Members of the associational building committee were: James Smith, chairman; B. A. Naron, vice-chairman; John Eddleman, secretary; Everette Sims, construction supervisor; Gene Henderson; Earl Ezelle; Murry Alexander; and ex officio, Dan Robertson and Roy D. Raddin.

Pictured by the building sign are Raddin, Kelly, and Smith. Besides Raddin, associational staffers include Perry Claxton, family counseling; Mrs. Margaret Erwin, secretary; and Kenneth Forbus, clerk-treasurer.



## Washington Baptists open center

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Simultaneous revival goals include 175,000 baptisms

By Joe Westbury

ATLANTA (BP) — Evangelism leaders of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board are optimistic that more than a third of the denomination's baptisms for 1990 can be reaped from national simultaneous revivals scheduled for that year.

About 175,000 baptisms, or 35 percent of the denomination's projected half million baptisms, are predicted to come from the revivals, said Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism for the board.

That would be an increase from the 103,000 conversions reported in the 1986 Good News America simultaneous revivals, which were 28 percent of the denomination's total of 364,000 baptisms. The 1986 figure ended a four-year decline in baptisms that had seen the totals steadily erode from a high of 411,000 in 1982.

Tied to the 1990 goals will be the first large-scale evangelistic effort among American ethnics and the launching of 1,000 new churches in 250 targeted areas of the nation.

Leaders and editors from the 17 Southern Baptist ethnic fellowships

recently took the lead in pledging their support for the revivals. As a result of their commitment, a growing network of ethnic newspapers will be used for the first time in uniting the fellowships around Southern Baptist objectives of evangelizing the nation for Christ.

In announcing the goals, Harris called for greater involvement among Baptist state conventions, associations, and churches to make the second set of national revivals the most far-reaching in the denomination's history.

Set for March 18-April 29, 1990, the evangelistic emphasis will be promoted as "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." The theme recently was modified from "Here's Hope. God Cares for You" to present a more direct evangelistic appeal with a Christian flavor.

Some board members had questioned the effectiveness of the campaign if the word "Jesus" were left out and the campaign weakened, since many cults are using the word "God" in a generic sense, Harris explained. The

modification will distinguish the meetings as "distinctly Christian in nature," he added.

Nevada will serve as pilot for the meetings, when statewide simultaneous revivals are launched prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Las Vegas in 1989. On a national scale the same year, 100 summer missionaries and 100 interns and PRAXIS leaders will be targeted for service in strategic areas of the nation to provide groundwork for the upcoming revivals, Harris said. PRAXIS is a partnership venture of the Home Mission Board and Southern Baptist seminaries that provides students with 10 weeks of supervised church-starting experience with seminary credit.

In addition to promoting community revivals across the nation in 1990, the board will be involved directly in sponsoring 50 area crusades, sponsoring up to 60 youth/adult-led revivals, and sending 200 revival teams to new-work areas of the nation. Full-time

(Continued on page 5)



## Three from Mississippi

# Foreign Mission Board approves 73 journeymen

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board approved 73 young adults for training as journeymen during its April meeting in Lexington, Ky. Three are from Mississippi — Judy Bracken, Shawn Cashion, and Angie Williams.

They represent the 26th group of college graduates under 27 years old selected to go overseas and work two years alongside career missionaries.

Candidates will fill assignments as school teachers, teachers of missionaries' children, music and student workers and clerical workers, to name a few. There is one pharmacist in the group.

The greatest number of them, 28, have ties to Texas. Fourteen have ties to Florida and 13 to Missouri. Twelve each have connections to Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week training session at the Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., will be commissioned for service July 17.

Judy Bracken (current address: Rt. 1, Box 129, Enterprise, Miss.), is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women at Columbus. She has been summer missionary in Virginia and a staffer at Gulfshore Assembly and a teacher in Smyrna, Ga. Born in Richmond, Va., she considers Meridian her hometown. She is the daughter of



Bracken

Cashion

Margaret Bracken of Enterprise and Roy David Bracken of Meridian. Her journeyman assignment will be to Monrovia, Liberia, as an elementary teacher. She is a member of Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

Shawn Cashion most recently was employed as a balloon hostess at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla. Currently she is a student at Mississippi College and expects to graduate this semester. She was born in Orlando and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Cashion. Her assignment will be an elementary teacher in Quezaltenango, Guatemala.

Her church membership is at First Baptist, Jackson.

Angie Williams most recently was employed as an academic assistant in the department of housing at Mississippi State University. Currently she lives at 3401 Kettering Lane, Birmingham, Ala. She expects to graduate this semester from State. Her church membership is at Faith Baptist Church, Starkville, Miss. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan E. Williams of Birmingham, where she was born. She is to be assigned as an elementary MK teacher in Chiclayo, Peru.

## Study of Joint Committee should be completed before SBC

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The report on a study of Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is almost complete, the chairman of the special committee that is conducting the study said.

The nine-member fact-finding committee was appointed in September by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, is vice-chairman of the fact-finding group. It has been charged with studying the relationship between the denomination and the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious liberty advocacy organization composed of representatives from nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

The fact-finding committee was formed in response to an effort at the 1986 SBC annual meeting to sever ties between the convention and the Baptist Joint Committee and establish an "exclusive Southern Baptist presence" in Washington.

The study committee drafted its final report during a meeting March 27 in Nashville, Tenn., and a three-

member writing team worked on the final version March 28, said Chairman Gary Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz. After approval by the entire group, the report will be sent to members of the Executive Committee and released through Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, he added.

The final report "will include an introduction, a description of our meetings and procedures, the scope of our research, information relative to the SBC Public Affairs Committee, and our recommendation concerning the revision of Bylaw 18, a report of our committee findings and our committee's recommendations," Young said.

The SBC Public Affairs Committee is the 15-member group through which Southern Baptists relate to the Baptist Joint Committee. Bylaw 18 of the SBC constitution governs the formation of the Public Affairs Committee.

The proposed bylaw revision would increase the size of the Public Affairs Committee in accordance with a recent Baptist Joint Committee restructuring plan. Consequently, the SBC

# Adrian Rogers says he will allow name to be placed for president

By Dan Martin

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers will allow his name to be placed in nomination for a third term as president of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church here, told Baptist Press: "If the brethren want me, I hope to serve another year.

"Three things have led me to that conclusion. First, I have prayed and feel a calmness in my heart about it.

Second, I have received a great deal of encouragement from my brethren and trusted friends. Third, I have a deep love for our denomination, and I hope that I can be of help to it. In my heart, I believe I can."

He said his decision is made "not so much in the sense that work is uncompleted as in the sense that I can be useful and helpful in coming to a

resolution of some of our differences and getting on with the job of telling the world about Jesus."

If Rogers is elected during the 1987 annual meeting of the denomination scheduled June 16-18 in St. Louis, it will mark the first time in recent years a person has served three terms as president. The last person to serve three terms was the late R.G. Lee, Rogers' predecessor at Bellevue Baptist Church, who served 1949, 1950, and 1951.

Rogers was elected on the first ballot in the 1979 annual meeting in Houston, drawing 51.3 percent of the vote against five other candidates. He declined to allow his nomination for a second term at the 1980 annual meeting.

Rogers was again elected in 1986, receiving 54.2 percent of the vote, defeating W. Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas.

Since Lee's service nearly 40 years ago, the SBC bylaws have been changed to allow a person to serve only two consecutive terms. A person may, however, serve two terms and be eligible to serve again after a one-year lapse. Thus, under SBC bylaws, Rogers is eligible for a second consecutive term.

Rogers, 54, has been pastor of the 16,000-member church since 1972. Both of his predecessors, R.G. Lee and Ramsey Pollard, were presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is a native of Florida and a graduate of Stetson University in DeLand, Fla.; New Orleans Seminary; and the California Graduate School of Theology in Glendale.

Bellevue has been the top Cooperative Program giving church in the Tennessee Baptist Convention for a number of years.

## Presidency should seek man, Jackson believes

By Dan Martin

PHOENIX (BP) — Southern Baptists should "go back to letting the office of president seek the man, not the man the office," Richard Jackson said.

For months, it has been rumored Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, would be the standard bearer for moderates at the 1987 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 16-18, in St. Louis.

As rumors persisted, Jackson was asked by Baptist Press if he would allow his nomination for the presidency of the denomination.

Jackson said he is not a candidate "for anything, but will allow my nomination." However, he said he "will not turn one hand, attend one meeting or identify myself as a candidate for any group. If anybody feels I can help the denomination and wants to nominate me, they have my permission to do so."

Jackson said he made his decision before current SBC President Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., announced he would allow his nomination for a second term, and "without knowing his (Rogers') intentions."

"At the present time, with things the way they are, there is no way the office can seek the man, especially since it seems someone has to be a declared candidate (before he can be nominated or elected). I think the Baptist way is that we have priesthood of the believer and messengers ought to be free to do what they feel God is leading them to do," he said.

Jackson has been nominated twice before for the presidency of the SBC, in 1987 and again in 1980. In addition, he nominated Bailey Smith of Del City, Okla. — who won a first ballot victory in 1980 — for a second term in 1981, and also nominated W. Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, at the 1986 annual meeting.

Jackson's church was the top Cooperative Program giving congregation in the SBC last year, topping \$1 million.

Jackson, 48, is a native of Texas and a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He has been pastor of the North Phoenix congregation 20 years and during his 30-year ministry, has baptized more than 15,000 persons.

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Marv Knox is BP feature editor.



## Worship nature considered at preaching conferences

"The Nature of True Worship," will be the topic for a session of the Preaching and Worship Conferences to take place in two Mississippi cities in May.

The conferences, sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will take place May 14 at First Church, Philadelphia, and May 15 at Collins Church, Collins.

Featured on the program will be L.V. Stanfield, retired professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary; and Harold Freeman, professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary.

Besides talking on true worship, Stanfield will speak on "The Sermon as an Act of Worship," and "The Special Acts of Worship." Freeman will speak on "Foundations in Biblical Preaching," "Making the Sermon Matter," and "Illustrating the Sermon Interestingly."

## Simultaneous revival goals

(Continued from page 3)

vocational evangelists will be recruited for the six-week emphasis, Harris explained.

A five-year goal of training one million Sunday School workers in evangelism is expected to be reached by the revival date, which also will utilize 50 church planter apprentices, 100 interns and PRAXIS leaders, 500 retired ministers, and 150 Mission Service Corps pastoral leaders in the evangelistic thrust and follow-up, Harris said.

Black church leaders also will be trained, and materials will be distributed in four major languages among ethnics. Partial materials will be available to 17 other ethnic fellowships, the first such commitment ever made to the diverse language groups.

When the revivals are launched on May 18, 1990, Southern Baptists — armed with up to 15 million complimentary copies of the New Testament — will be involved in the largest attempt to evangelize the nation in their 145-year history, Harris added.

Joe Westbury writes for the HMB.

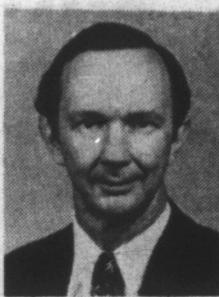
## Committee seeks Foundation head

A search committee has been formed to find a successor to the late Harold Kitchings, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Bill R. Baker, president of the Foundation trustees, reports that the search committee is to consist of four members of the trustee board. They are Kearney Travis Jr., Brandon, chairman; Aubrey Boone, Winona; Hayes Graves, Brandon; Norris Stampley, Jackson; and Baker will serve ex officio.

Kitchings died April 8 of cancer after 10 years with the Foundation.

Carey Cox, retired executive secretary of the Foundation, is serving part time as interim in the office.



Freeman



Stanfield

## Lutheran groups agree to merge

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — By a four-to-one margin, congregations of The American Lutheran Church (ALC) have voted to take the historic step of forming the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by merging with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC).

Results of the six-month referendum of the ALC's 4,959 congregations were announced during a March 20 news conference. Of the 4,660 congregations returning ballots, 3,752 favored the new church plan, and 863 were opposed. Only a two-thirds majority was required for adoption of the plan; still the 80.5 percentage of approval was not as high as some leaders expected.

## Blue Mountain sets graduation Sunday, May 3



Fagan



Morrison

The 114th Commencement Exercise at Blue Mountain College will be held on Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. in the Modena Lowery Berry Auditorium. The program will begin with the Baccalaureate Service at 11 a.m. and the commencement will follow in the afternoon.

The Baccalaureate address will be presented by Julian W. Fagan III, pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

There are 62 candidates for degrees who will receive diplomas in the commencement exercises. Mrs. Martha "Twick" Cooper Morrison of Vicksburg will present the commencement address. Mrs. Morrison graduated from Blue Mountain College in 1951 and earned her Master's Degree from the University of Mississippi. In 1986 she was chosen by the Blue Mountain College Alumnae Association as the Alumna of the Year.

# Faculty nomination dropped; convention politics blamed

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The nomination of a Fort Worth pastor to become professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary has been withdrawn because of what the school's president called "denominational political objections."

James Carter, pastor of University Baptist Church here was nominated to become professor of preaching by Southwestern President Russell H. Dilday Jr. during the March 9 meeting of seminary trustees. Questions arose, however, in the trustees' academic affairs committee and the nomination was not presented to the full board.

On March 31, Dilday and Carter issued a joint statement to trustees saying Carter's nomination to the faculty would be dropped.

"After much prayer and a number of profound and painful discussions, Dr. James Carter and I have mutually decided to withdraw his name from consideration for a faculty position," Dilday wrote to trustees.

Dilday told the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, that one of the trustees, Ken Lilly, a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., had told Academic Vice President John Newport that 18 of the board's trustees opposed Carter's nomination before the board meeting began. Five more joined in opposition after the meeting started.

Dilday said: "Faculty members have always been chosen because of their theological position, the Baptist Faith and Message Statement, which is our doctrinal guideline; spiritual and moral character; and the academic, intellectual capabilities and qualifications. Those things were not the bases of objections of those who opposed Dr. Carter's election. They moved aside for the first time to other issues which are outside those parameters."

"It has become more and more clear that the issues before us are no longer, if they ever were, basically theological," Dilday said. "They are indeed political."

Included with Dilday's brief letter to trustees was a 23-page document prepared by Carter concerning objections, which had arisen during the academic affairs committee.

Carter was not present for either the academic affairs committee meeting or the full board meeting. Under the trustee organization, the academic affairs committee is composed of nine members, although any other board member may attend and participate. Most of the trustees did attend the March 9 meeting. The meeting was conducted in executive — closed — session.

In his reply to trustees, Carter said he understood questions raised about his nomination did not concern character, commitment, credentials, or confession of faith — "what the academic affairs committee usually considers when recommending an individual to the faculty."

In the document sent to trustees, Carter outlined and responded to the five areas he said had been question-

ed during the academic affairs committee meeting.

First is his belief in the Bible. "I have affirmed my belief in the Bible as the inspired, authoritative Word of God," he said. "It is the Word of God and is our authority for matters of faith and practice."

Second is the autonomy of his local people. I feel very strongly that the worship style of a church is strictly a matter of local church preference, what suits the needs of that body of believers."

Carter said University Baptist Church has ordained women as deacons and ministers. "The church voted to ordain women," he said. "I did not lead the church into the ordination of women. I have not been crusading for the ordination of women."

The third issue, Carter said, is that the other four professors in Southwestern's preaching department are members of University Church. "This questions the right of individual church as expressed in style of worship and ordination of women, he said.

About worship, Carter said, "We come to worship God, not to entertain

free choice," he said.

A fourth matter is the church's evangelistic record. "I am not particularly proud of our baptismal record. In fact, I have been distressed over it," Carter said. "It has not been outstanding."

However, Carter said he is "unapologetic" for that record because of the church's location, situation, and history.

Finally, Carter addressed the concern that he had been called a moderate-conservative in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy. "By no stretch of the imagination could I be considered a liberal. I have some real concerns in the present situation, but I have not been a leader nor a spokesman in any kind of movement."

He is a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville and earned master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southwestern Seminary.

He was a member of the board of trustees of Southwestern Seminary from 1973 to 1982 and was chairman of the presidential search committee which brought Dilday to be president of the seminary in 1977.

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## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### Some people believe in miracles

Some people think miracles happened only in Bible times. Others think miracles still happen.

A few years ago, a leaflet came across my desk, from World Gospel Crusades. I don't really know anything about that group. But the story on the front page of that leaflet amazed me. It was titled "A Red Sea Miracle in Mexico." It was by C. Merwin Russell.

"Come quickly! The airplane is in water!" That was how Russell's wife, Leone, had awakened him one morning. They had gone to bed the night before during a gentle rain at their mission station 200 miles below the border in Baja California, Mexico. The airplane was tied, off the landing strip, a half mile from the Pacific.

What they didn't know was that during the night the Baja peninsula had been drenched with one of the heaviest rainfalls in recorded history. The Sierra San Pedro Martir Mountains to the east had already been the victims of thunderstorms for several days previously, so that now the mountain streams flooded and foamed toward the sea, carrying a lot of villagers' homes away with them and washing out big chunks of the only paved road in Baja.

As waters of the flash flood crept higher and higher on the airplane, Russell thought of the plans he had for flying to many villages to distribute Scripture, show films, and take provisions to orphanages. He prayed, "Lord, please don't let your airplane be destroyed. . . . It is too greatly needed down here in Mexico."

But by the second day the plane stood in a lake of water three miles long and a half mile wide — its only

outlet to the sea blocked by 20 foot high sand dunes. They tried to pull the plane out with trucks and tractor but the ropes broke.

By the third day, Mexicans began to come and ask them for aid. "Our daughter is ill. Can you fly her to a clinic?" "Our food and water are almost gone. Can you fly us to get provisions?" "The road and the bridge are out. What can we do?" The Russells shared their own food and water, but the plane was still marooned in a big body of water.

That night Russell said to his wife, "Honey, we need a Red Sea Miracle!" They prayed and committed the whole thing to the Lord.

Next day with their C. B. radio they called a businessman who lived five miles to the north and asked him if he thought he could get over in his bulldozer and try to use it and a winch to get the plane out to the highway, where they could take off. He said he'd try if they would first come and get him and let him survey the situation. They went in the mission's four-wheel drive vehicle and got stuck in the mud three times on the way.

When they got back with Mr. Mayer, they climbed the hill to look down on the lake. "What's your problem?" Mayer asked. What had been a huge lake two hours before was now only a small pond. Leone screamed, "Look at that hole in the dunes!"

A half mile out toward the Pacific Ocean, a giant opening had formed in the sand dunes so that millions of gallons of water — red water — had been sucked out to sea with the outgoing tide.

Mexicans standing around began saying, "Es Dios! Es Dios! (It's God! It's God!) We have never seen an

opening to the sea here before."

Within two days, the Beechcraft Baron was on the highway, and its engines started normally. Within three weeks, Russell reported, he had in that plane and in a couple of other larger planes helped to deliver 30,000 pounds of food, clothing, medicines, and Scriptures, and had rescued 84 stranded people.

\* \* \* \*

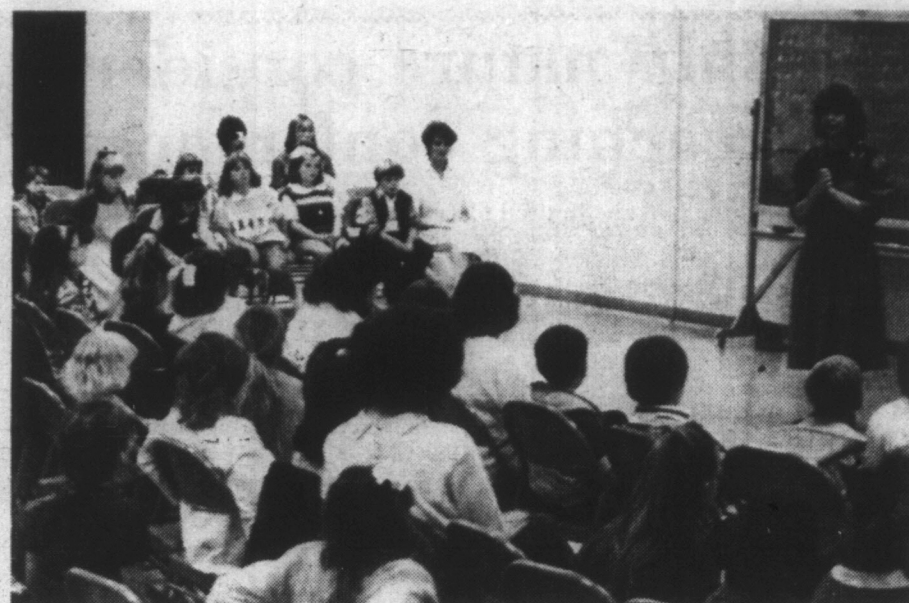
A couple of weeks ago I got a letter telling of an event at Pensacola, Florida. I do not know the persons involved, but those who told me about it are persons of the highest integrity.

A young man was surfing off one of the Pensacola beaches, when a strong north wind came up suddenly and forced him out farther and farther into the sea. On-lookers knew what had happened but didn't know what to do. Someone called the surfer's mother, and someone called the Coast Guard.

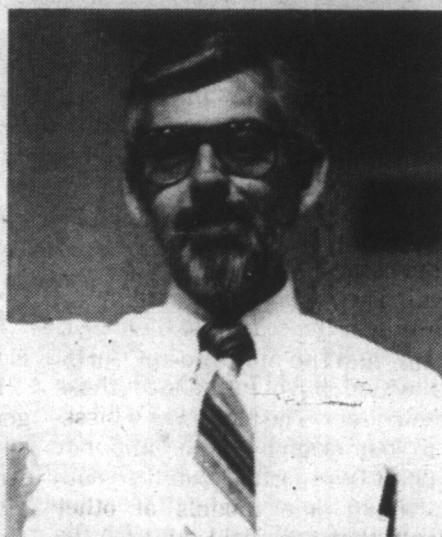
The mother called a group of friends who frequently banded together to pray. She asked that they pray that the wind would change and blow her son back toward the beach.

At the same time, the Coast Guard plane began searching for the man, to try to find and rescue him. They saw what they thought was a shark circling and circling, and they took a closer look. Yes, there was a man in the water, and he had seen the fish, too. It was still circling. No, it was not a shark! It was a dolphin. As the Coast Guard watched, it continued its vigil, round and round. Suddenly the wind shifted, and the man began to drift with his surfboard in the opposite direction.

Some people think miracles happened only in Bible times. Some think they still happen. What do you think?



### Children's Choir Festival held in Biloxi, April 4



Gulf Coast Ministers of Music Association held its annual Children's Choir Festival at First Church, Biloxi, April 4.

The clinician for the Young Musicians was Terry Kirkland, left, of Nashville and the clinician for the Music Makers was Christy Watridge, above, of Memphis. Children's Choirs from the Gulf Coast and Jackson County associations participated in the workshop which culminated in a worship service with mass choirs singing hymns and anthems.

The Young Musician Handbell Choirs from First, Biloxi, and First, Gulfport performed also.

### The Mississippi Mission BOX SCORES

Each church is considering a suggested minimum goal (Great Commitment) and a maximum goal (Greater Commitment). The target range gives each church an idea of what is required to achieve success for The Mississippi Mission. Listed below are the results of churches reporting since April 9, 1987.

Church	Association	Goal	Pledged
Ethel Baptist Church, Ethel	Attala	\$ 8-9,000	\$ 8,000
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko	Attala	109-137,000	137,000
First Baptist Church, Bruce	Calhoun	60-72,000	60,000
New Hope Bapt. Church, Tupelo	Lee	15-17,000	15,000
First Baptist Church, Brookhaven	Lincoln	143-179,000	175,000
Osyka Baptist Church, Osyka	Pike	11-12,000	11,000
Locust Hill Bapt. Church, Blue Springs	Pontotoc	6-7,000	6,000
Harmony Baptist Church, Walnut	Tippah	17-20,000	17,000
First Baptist Church, Coffeeville	Yalobusha	39-45,000	39,000
Pilgrims Rest Bapt. Church, Eupora	Webster	4-5,000	5,000

The following listed indicates positive response of churches across the state by association since the April 9, 1987, issue:

Church	Association
Shady Grove Bapt. Church, Hazlehurst	Copiah
First Baptist Church, Wiggins	Gulf Coast
Wynndale Baptist Church, Terry	Hinds-Madison
River Hill Bapt. Church, Fulton	Itawamba
Yellow Leaf Bapt. Church, Oxford	Lafayette
First Baptist Church, Amory	Monroe
First Baptist Church, Winona	Montgomery
Midway Baptist Church, Newton	Newton
Mineral Wells Bapt. Church, Mineral Wells	Northwest
South McComb Bapt. Church, McComb	Pike
Springfield Baptist Church, Morton	Scott
Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall	Simpson
Lowrey Mem. Bapt. Church, Blue Mountain	Tippah
Tiplersville Bapt. Church, Tiplersville	Tippah
West Ripley Bapt. Church, Ripley	Tippah
Montevista Bapt. Church, Eupora	Webster
Congregational Gifts Division Total Pledged to Date — \$3,483,530.80	

## Nevada Convention and Home Board plan Las Vegas evangelism thrust

By Michael B. McCullough

RENO, Nev. (BP) — Statewide simultaneous revivals, scripture distribution, house-to-house witnessing, and sponsorship of 25 church-type missions are some activities projected for implementation prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1989.

More than 30 pastors from across Nevada met March 12-13 with representatives of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to discuss plans for evangelistic and church starting efforts and to highlight positive results of the SBC's decision to hold its meeting in Las Vegas.

Messengers chose Las Vegas as the 1989 SBC meeting site during the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh. An evangelistic emphasis in connection with the annual meeting was included in the vote to go to Las Vegas.

Bobby Sunderland, the Home Mission Board's director of direct

evangelism and coordinator of the board's involvement surrounding the Las Vegas meeting, outlined plans for the thrust.

The central evangelistic emphasis will be simultaneous revivals held across the Nevada Baptist Convention, using the theme, "Here's Hope: Jesus Cares For You." The Nevada revivals will be a pilot for SBC-wide simultaneous revivals in 1990 using the same theme.

Pastors and evangelists from across the SBC will be enlisted to lead in the revivals, scheduled for the week prior to the June Las Vegas convention.

The evangelists, music leaders, and lay-support teams will be asked to provide their own expenses.

Additional evangelistic plans include a door-to-door canvass of Las Vegas. This project will be linked with prospect discovery and scripture

distribution, Sunderland said.

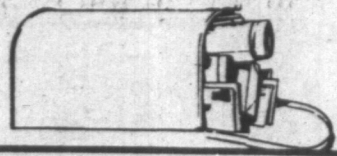
Prayer partners enlisted by the board will pray for non-Christians living in Nevada and for messengers who attend the convention. The Las Vegas phone book will be divided up, and every name will be mailed to prayer volunteers across the SBC, with a request that they pray for those people to accept Christ as their Savior. A mass rally also is projected for Las Vegas during the weekend prior to the SBC.

David Bunch, director of the board's church extension division, said plans are being directed toward church starts, construction, and awareness tours in Nevada.

He said co-sponsorship for these new works will be sought, linking sponsoring Nevada churches with strong churches from across the SBC.

McCullough is editor of Nevada Baptist.





# Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

## Played dead

Editor:

In response to "Finished Work," it could have been written by hundreds, maybe thousands of "hungry" Baptists.

Our family had to leave a "spiritually starving" church to find "food."

The only time decisions were made was during revivals with an evangelist or guest pastor.

When pastors are called by God, they better know it is heavy being a shepherd to a bunch of sheep. It seems the pastor's idea of a church anymore is a job position.

People have rolled over and played "dead" with their "dead" pastors, because it's obvious they feel defeated in the situation. The church (people) is as spiritual as the "food" served.

Praying for the pastor was the answer given, but how are people to know how to pray? We have to know how to be in his presence to pray.

If we haven't had the guidance of our pastor, through the Holy Spirit, how can we feel victorious?

After a long period of "starvation," pastors along with church members start going through the motions, just to get by. As in the case with our church, we had long faces, singing our praises as if our jawbone was broken, and we warmed the pews.

We now attend a Full Gospel Fellowship. We had no choice; we were drying up spiritually. There are

several former Baptists in our congregation. They tell the same story!

Our pastor now is on fire for the Lord and so are his sheep! We had to go where there is life. As we all know, his name is life. God's not dead, he lives!

Who would know that in most Baptist churches?

Name withheld by request

## Commendation

Editor:

This past March as a part of our church's Youth Week activities, we had the BSU ministry team from USM to come and lead in a week-end revival. The purpose of this letter is to commend the students, their BSU director, and the multitude of Christians which have influenced these students' lives. The team was a blessing to our young people and our church. It is important that the youth have living role models of other students that are "sold out" for the Lord, and these BSU students were examples of just that. I recommend this ministry team to any church seeking to see fresh, vibrant and living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Michael Woods, pastor  
Unity Baptist Church  
Greene Association

## Pastor in Berlin

Editor:

The Berlin Baptist Church, an English speaking congregation of about 85 people, located in West Berlin, Germany, is in need of a pastor. The majority of the congregation is connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact:

John A. Witcher  
Drawer 5000  
APO NY, NY 09742

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,  
John A. Witcher  
Chairman, Pastor Search  
Committee  
Berlin Baptist Church  
West Berlin, Germany

## Special saints

Editor:

I would like to praise God for his goodness and kindness in sending a special group of saints to help us construct a new church. Two summers ago the First Baptist Church of Long Beach began a mission to the fast-developing northern section of our city. The state convention graciously provided us money to buy five acres of land. Mobile chapels were provided by the state convention and the Gulf Coast Association. Our dream was to have a permanent building as soon as possible. We had a modest

building fund but not nearly enough to build.

Then God sent us a volunteer construction crew from the Alta Woods Baptist Church of Jackson! On Monday morning, April 6, sixteen men gathered on the construction site where we had only a concrete slab. By the time they left on Saturday, April 11, we had a building of over 6,000 square feet framed up and blacked-in! Those men worked so hard that building supply companies could not deliver materials fast enough. People driving up and down the road did a double-take as a new auditorium and educational wing seemed to materialize suddenly. Local people are still talking about what a miracle it was! We anticipate having our first service in the new building before much longer.

Those who have been involved in starting new churches know that sometimes it gets tiring, lonely, costly, and frustrating. You have such big dreams, but the resources and manpower often seem inadequate. Hence, how great is the encouragement and joy when God sends help such as the group from Alta Woods. We praise God for the excellent crew which included Dale Stuart, Joe Aikens, Jimmy Polk, Max Daniels, Dan Lynn, George West, Billy Roberts, Norm Stampley, Carl Cloer, Wayne Hughes, Bob Mahon, James Grimes, Bobby Staples, Mack Jenkins, Marvin Bailey, and Ray Benton. As Nehemiah said of his work crew in Jerusalem, "The people had a mind to work." Amen! Thanks for a job well-done.

David W. Spencer, pastor  
First Baptist Church,  
Long Beach

## Who's at fault?

Editor:

I would like to say that I agree with, and appreciate your response to the letter, "Finished Work," that appeared in the March 26 Baptist Record.

I would also like to comment on it. I also am curious. The writer of the letter stated that it was obvious to the pastor that his work there was finished. I wonder where this person gets the idea that they know God's will for someone else. This person also stated that the church was dead or so near dead that the buzzards were flying overhead. I wonder if it is entirely the pastor's fault, or maybe if it is the congregation who doesn't have their hearts right with God.

I think probably, if this person and the congregation would seek God's answer and work with the pastor, they might reach these lost souls and families he could not reach. All Christians are instructed by the Bible to witness to the lost, not only the pastors.

Also, could it be that pastor is feeding the hungry saints with spiritual food, and they are not responding?

I think before people blame a pastor for a church's problems, they should examine and judge themselves. After all, when we point an accusing finger at someone else, there are three fingers pointing back at us.

In my opinion, most situations such as this, aren't entirely the pastor's fault.

I think we should let God take care of it in his own time and way.

Bill Crownover  
Heidelberg

# 'Unaffiliated' pastors call for peace in SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 30,000 Southern Baptist pastors have been mailed a two-page document calling for peace within their convention.

"A Pastoral Plea for Peace Among Southern Baptists" is subtitled "No Lord but Christ, No Creed but the Bible." It was formulated by four ministers who claim no affiliation with either faction of the theological/political controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

They are Ralph Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala.; William Lumpkin, retired pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., and former professor of church history at Southern and Southeastern Seminaries; Paul Powell, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Dan Yearly, pastor of University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla., and national alumni president of Southwestern Seminary.

The authors described their document as "a mainstream rallying point around the Bible," noting it does not include the word "inerrancy," which has become a point of contention between groups within the convention. The four primary points of the

pastoral plea are:

— "We hold to the Bible as the supreme and reliable source of authority in all matters of faith and practice, and we hold to the Bible first and foremost.

— "We hold to the duty and responsibility of every person to learn the Bible, to interpret the Bible and to obey the Bible.

— "The Holy Spirit is the true guide in interpreting the Bible to our hearts. The Spirit, and not human theories, is the sole defender of the authority of Scripture.

— "Southern Baptists have always gathered around the Bible itself and not around theories about the Bible. This is the true secret and foundational basis of our unity and cooperation."

The document elaborates on each major point with several subpoints. It concludes:

"By taking our stand upon the Bible itself, the Bible alone and not upon a human notion about biblical inspiration, Southern Baptists can return to the basis of unity which gave us peace. By esteeming the Bible above theories about the Bible, and by esteeming the necessity of personal interpretation along with the centrality of the Bible, we choose for the Bible and for peace.

"We call for a return to our roots, to

the tried and true way of cooperation." "It is an old statement," Langley said of the pastors' plea. "There is nothing really new in this. It is a classic old statement of the view of Scripture Baptists have held since the 17th century."

The document is based upon the historic Baptist confessions of faith that were written in the 17th and early 18th centuries, Lumpkin said. He noted sources for the wording and ideas of the new document are derived from the First and Second London Confessions, dated 1644 and 1678, respectively; the General Baptists' Assembly Confession of 1660 and Orthodox Confession of 1678; and General and Particular Baptist associational confessions dating from 1651 and 1656.

"We regard these as basic," he added. "These were the foundational confessions (that were written) when positions were being identified and defined by early Baptists. We want to get back to our foundations. This is how the Protestant Reformation started; the reformers got back to their biblical foundations."

Powell explained the quartet's reason for sending the document: "We felt like we needed a good, clear, brief statement of what Baptists have always believed about the Bible and

the priesthood of the believer. There is nothing inflammatory, nothing political in the statement. It's good for people to know they can affirm a statement like this and be in the mainstream, not only of traditional Baptists, but of current Baptists."

The statement already has been sent to between 30,000 and 34,000 Southern Baptist pastors, and organizers hope to send it to pastors of all the convention's 37,000-plus churches. It has been mailed from several places across the country, including Virginia, Texas, and North Carolina, Lumpkin said. The project has been funded by "free-will contributors," Langley added.

"This is not a regional nor partisan move, but rather a plea for pastors especially to employ their reasoning powers to look at the issues raised in the document," Lumpkin stressed. "We think many of our pastors have been oblivious to some of the foundational positions upon which we have stood as a denomination. We just want to review the principles, pull back to our roots and rediscover some unity."

Lumpkin added, "We hope it would eliminate the charge of liberal or non-liberal from anyone who bears the Baptist banner. We hope thousands of people will read it and affirm it as it affirms the Scriptures."

## Driscoll song: "Just say no"

ANTRIM, New Hampshire (EP) — Christian musician Phil Driscoll is encouraging people to say no to drugs. He had recorded two versions of his song "Just Say No" for use in various forums. One song offers Jesus as the answer and will be used by Christian radio stations, while a version prepared for secular radio stations downplays the gospel, emphasizing instead the dangers of drug abuse.

Driscoll is also supporting an essay contest that will award two four-year scholarships to Hawthorne College in Antrim, New Hampshire. Scholarships will be awarded to the authors of the best original themes urging people to "Just Say No." Typed entries of no more than 5,000 words must be sent to Quality of Life Scholarships, Hawthorne College, Antrim, NH 03440, before the June 1 deadline.



## Names in the News

**Penni Brown**, a native of Bogue Chitto, and a senior guard for the William Carey College Lady 'Saders,



Brown

Lady 'Sader ever named to the Academic All-America team.

Miss Brown will graduate in May with a bachelor of science degree in education and a master's degree in education, and plans to remain in the Hattiesburg area and teach.

Miss Brown was recently named as an "Outstanding Young Woman of America." In addition to these honors, she was elected as this year's William Carey College homecoming queen, named to Who's Who Among

America's Colleges and Universities, and won the Elementary Education Student Award at Carey. She is a member of the Student Government Association, Omicron Delta Kappa and Alpha Chi honor societies, Pi Omega social club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Campus Baptist Young Women.

**Louise Griffith**, associate dean of students (women) at Mississippi College, will be honored May 3, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. with a reception in recognition of her retirement from the College administration and family.

Mrs. Griffith joined the Mississippi College family in 1969. In addition to her duties as associate dean of students, she serves as associate professor of psychology and education in the school of education. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi.

A native of Prentiss, Mrs. Griffith is married to Lamont A. Griffith and they are the parents of three grown children.

**Mrs. Walter L. (Grace K.) Huff** was honored at First Church, Pascagoula, March 29, with a Mrs. Grace Huff Day. She had been church librarian for 15 years until her resignation in 1985. She is a former Junior High librarian in the Pascagoula public school system and retired in 1970.

The day began with the regular morning service, with her and her family occupying a reserve section. Dennis Johnsey, pastor, read a proclamation to the congregation as to the purpose of the day. Mrs. Huff was presented a corsage.

A reception was held that evening, and a plaque was given to Mrs. Huff for her years of volunteer service to her church. The media/library, which is located in a newly completed education wing, was dedicated.

## Staff Changes

**Tommy Tackett** has resigned as pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada Association, effective April 4. Tackett is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and has attended New Orleans Seminary. He is available for supply and interim work.

Tackett may be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 120, Belden, MS 38826 or phone (601) 840-0615.

**Carl Nieman** has resigned as pastor of Phalti Church, Prentiss, to attend Southwestern Seminary. He is married to the former Rebecca Ann Miller, and they have two children, Amy and Daniel. His resignation is effective May 17. He is a graduate of William Carey College, and pastorates have been in Lebanon, Union, and Jeff Davis Associations.

**Calvary Church, Gloster**, has called **Bob Rogers** as pastor. A graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, Rogers is a student in the doctor of theology degree program at New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored churches at Fort Adams, Roxie, and Hot Coffee. Rogers, his wife, Mary, and daughter, Melissa, age 2, can be reached at P. O. Box 43, Gloster, MS 39638, phone (601) 225-4691.

**Big Level Church, Gulf Coast**, has called **James Bankston** as minister of music and youth. Bankston is the son of the late Jimmy Bankston, a minister.

**Wayne Carlisle** was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by Westwood Church, Lauderdale Association. He was called by the church as associate pastor of outreach.



Carlisle retired from the Air National Guard after 23 years of service. He is available for supply, interim pastorate, and revivals. He can be contacted at 2705 Edgewood Drive, Meridian, MS. 39305 or through Westwood Church, W. Buford Usry, pastor.

**Delton M. Beall**, a native of Jackson, and graduate of William Carey College, has resigned as pastor of Glasgow Church, Glasgow, Ky. He has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Forrest City, Ark.

**George L. Olsen**, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., and former minister of education and youth, of First Church, Walton, Ky., has accepted the position of minister of education and activities of Parkway Church, Tupelo. Robert E. Shirley is pastor.

## Homecomings

**First Church of Orange Grove, Pascagoula**: May 3; message by Don Savell, former pastor; dinner in fellowship hall; no night service; Robert Spicer, pastor.

**Mt. Zion Church, Simpson County**: Old Fashion Sunday; May 3; oil lamps and window and doors open, dinner on the ground; former pastors to speak morning and afternoon services; no service that night.

**Kokomo Church, Marion County**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary celebration with homecoming, May 17. Glenn Nace is pastor, David Scarbrough is music director, and John Boyles is youth activities co-ordinator.

**Wynndale, Springridge Road, Terry**: May 1-3; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; J. Garland McKee, First, Pearlant, Tex., evangelist; B. T. Robbins, Clinton, music. Charles Gentry, pastor.

**Airport (Grenada)**: May 3-6; John Marshall, St. Louis, Mo., former pastor, preaching; Jay Canterbury, leading singing; Sunday services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m. J. C. Hall, pastor.

**Springfield (Adams)**: May 3-7; Paul Jones, pastor, New Bethlehem, Walker, La., evangelist; Buddy Givens, Calvary, Natchez, music evangelist; services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Sunday; and 7 p.m. week nights.

**Daniel Memorial, Jackson**: May 3-6; Sunday services, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., fellowship supper, 6 p.m., services, 7:30 p.m.; Wed., supper, 5:15 p.m., followed by services, 7 p.m.; Jerry Pipes, director of Completeness Ministries in Jackson and Fort Worth, Tex., and authored the book "Being Complete In Christ," evangelist, with his wife, Debra, featured soloist; Bryon R. Malone, pastor.

**Calvary, Vicksburg**: May 3-8; special music, 6:45 nightly; services, 7 nightly; Jerry Moore, evangelist; Marcus Peagler, music; Johnny Collins, pastor.

**Crestview, Petal**: May 3-8; Joe Royalty, full-time, evangelism, Petal, evangelist; Bill Hall, music and youth director, Crestview, singer and music director; services, Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. services, 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; covered dish luncheon following morning services. C. R. Parkin, pastor.

## Devotional Miracles

By Alvis K. Cooper

The Apostle Paul through his powerful prayer life was able to heal the sick, have men struck blind, cast out evil spirits, and raise the dead. At a casual glance we can easily exalt Paul beyond the reach of our own human weakness.

We look at the life of our Lord and see all the miracles that he performed and say, "He said, I can do the same thing." Truly he said that and for that reason miracles are still possible for the child of God today. On the other hand, we do not need to be presumptuous.

First of all, our prayer request must always end with "Thy will be done," not mine. Second of all, our lives must evidence a clear, clean, open channel of confession and communion with our Heavenly Father. Third, we need to remember that the great Apostle Paul, as powerful in prayer as he was, had his prayer for God to remove his "thorn" in the flesh turned down three times with a final, No! Paul was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, shipwrecked, and at the end of his life had his head removed. Prayer did not save him from all that. Prayer helped him endure all that!

Our Precious Lord himself could have destroyed the whole world with a word. Yet he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will, but thine be done." Christ could have turned stones into bread, but he didn't. He could have jumped off the temple and not have been harmed, but he didn't. He could have refused to DIE on a cross, but he didn't. He died on a cross that you and I might live.

Perhaps we need to re-think what the Lord told Paul as he sought relief from his burden and as we go to him with ours. Jesus said to Paul and says to us, "My grace is sufficient for thee (2 Cor. 12:9a)." Those who say there are no miracles today have really not looked.

When I see a mom and dad loving a precious little girl born with a life to death handicap — I see a miracle. When I see the tears of prayer on the faces of couples who have shared life and now one or both are facing heart surgery, or life threatening cancer and trust God all the time — I see a miracle. When I see a young wife holding on to the hand of a husband whose life is about to depart and she be left alone still trusting God — I see a miracle. When I see poor hopeless lost souls' faces light up after asking Christ to forgive and save them — I see miracles. Our God loves us. He knows what is best for us. May we trust him every day and in everything.

Alvis K. Cooper is pastor, West Corinth Church, Corinth.

## C. Berry McCarty to return as SBC parliamentarian

ST. LOUIS (BP) — C. Barry McCarty, the Church of Christ preacher who drew high marks as parliamentarian for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1986, will stage a return engagement for the 1987 annual meeting.

Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian P. Rogers told Baptist Press he has asked the same team of five parliamentarians who served at the 1986 annual meeting to return to assist him at the 1987 meeting, scheduled June 16-18 in St. Louis.

Rogers said he had asked the same four men who served with McCarty in 1986 to serve again. The chief assistants will be John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., and James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas.

Sullivan is former two-term first vice president of the SBC and Draper was SBC president, 1982-84. Sullivan also has been chairman of the bylaws workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee.

## Assoc. officers meet to include WMU, Brotherhood

The annual associational officer interpretation meeting, May 19 at Alta Woods Church Jackson, will include training for WMU and Brotherhood directors. Earlier program information excluded those offices. The program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Also to serve will be Dan Collins, an attorney from Greenville, S.C., and Joe Reynolds, an attorney from Houston.

McCarty, pastor of a Church of Christ in Jarvisburg, N.C., is a professional parliamentarian and a professor of public speaking and debate at Roanoke Bible College in Elizabeth City, N.C. He is a graduate of Roanoke Bible College, Abilene (Texas) Christian University, and holds a doctorate in rhetoric and argumentation from the University of Pittsburgh.

My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me. (Henry Ford)

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# Just for the Record

Thursday, April 30, 1987

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Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on May 3.

The schedule of events includes registration of guests and former members, 9:45-10:15 a.m. The anniversary service will be from 10:30 to noon. Lunch will be served in the East Room. From 1 to 1:45 p.m. will be fellowship time. And from 1:45 to 3 p.m., a program of sacred music will be presented by former and present members and ministers of music.

Nursery will be provided for birth through three years. Activities in Family Center for children, age four through grade six will also be provided.

Alta Woods Church has a membership of 2,380. Frank H. Thomas is pastor.

Bradley Pope of Clinton will be honored with a picnic/reunion for Mississippi College students and friends associated with his ministry there. It will take place May 9 at Rice Acres in Hinds County. For more information, contact Rosa Lee Hardin Jones at 924-4407 in Clinton.

The Mid-South Conference on Preaching, May 11-13 at Southland Baptist Church, Memphis, will feature Frank Pollard, pastor, First Church, Jackson.

## Senior Adult Corner

An Easter luncheon was given for the senior adults of Calvary Church, Silver Creek by John and Becky Miller, April 14, in fellowship hall. Thirty two senior adults from 63 to 92 years attended. The ladies were asked to make an Easter bonnet which they modeled after the lunch. First prize went to Mrs. Mary Cary, second prize to Mrs. Shelly Stamps, and third prize to Mrs. Lyda Hartzog. Mike Sutton is pastor.

## Off the Record

First Mother: "I think my son is home from college!"

Second Mother: "What makes you think so?"

First Mother: "Well, I haven't had a letter from him in three weeks and the car's gone."

# FMB re-elects chairman, picks four area directors

By Bob Stanley

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP) — Bob Smith of McAllen, Texas, was re-elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by acclamation April 8. Smith was nominated by Mark Corts, a Winston-Salem, N.C., pastor who had been identified in a secular news report as a possible second nominee for the position.

Corts, in nominating Smith, said, "The nature and task of this board simply will not allow us to be dominated by contention."

The board's responsibility does require firmness of conviction and a willingness to discuss and hear all points of view without reproach, Corts said. "I think Christian unity does not demand conformity. But it does demand kindness and openness, and if this board can maintain that kind of spirit, I think we can be a model for much of our convention on how to get along and work together." He said Smith "epitomizes that spirit."

After Corts' remarks, the board re-elected Smith, a retired Baptist associational director of missions, to the customary second year as chairman.

The only contest was for first vice chairman, with incumbent M.W. (Buck) Buckalew, a layman from Falls Church, Va., elected over Jimmie H. Carpenter, a physician from Seneca, S.C. Voting was by written ballot, and no totals were announced.

Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., was re-elected second vice chairman, and Harriet Gilbert of St. Simons Island, Ga., was elected to succeed Mary Dalton of Asheville, N.C., as recording secretary. Dalton had served two years and was ineligible for re-election.

The night before the election, a record gathering of Kentucky Baptists in Lexington's Rupp Arena witnessed the appointment of 49 new missionaries.

## Area Directors

Elected as new area directors were John Faulkner, eastern and southern Africa; Billy L. Bullington, western Africa; G. Keith Parker, Europe; and Dale G. Thorne, Middle East and northern Africa.

Only three area director posts remain to be filled to complete the top level of the board's reorganization gearing up for world evangelization: middle America and Canada, Brazil and the Caribbean, and southern Asia and the Pacific.

Faulkner, an Alabamian, has been associate director for eastern and southern Africa since 1985 and a missionary in Zimbabwe from 1971 to 1984.

He will live in Nairobi, Kenya, and coordinate the mission work of about 550 missionaries in 21 countries in the eastern and southern portion of the continent.

Bullington, a native of Arkansas, has been associate to the area director for western Africa since 1977, most recently working with missionaries in 10 non-English speaking countries. From 1967 to 1977 he was a missionary in Togo. He is expected to continue living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, but his

new responsibilities will involve work with about 450 missionaries in 14 countries.

Faulkner succeeds Davis Saunders, who has been named regional vice president for Africa. Bullington succeeds John Mills, who will spend his final year before retirement as part of the transition team charged with helping coordinate details of the board's reorganization and interpreting these changes to Southern Baptists and the missionaries.

In recent years, both Parker and Thorne have been associates to the director for Europe and the Middle East. Under the board's reorganization, the former area director, Isam Ballenger, was named vice president for the region and two area director positions were created, one for Europe, the other for the Middle East and northern Africa.

Parker, a North Carolina native, had been associate to the director for work in Europe since 1982. Earlier he was professor of practical theology at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, from 1971 to 1982. He will supervise the work of 230 missionaries in 12 European countries from his present home base in Ruschlikon.

Thorne, an Oklahoman who served in the Middle East since 1965, will oversee 170 missionaries in seven countries from his present base in Cyprus.

Since 1985 he has been associate to the director for work in these Middle East countries.

In another action, the board voted to add two island nations, New Caledonia and Vanuatu, which formerly was called New Hebrides, to its South Pacific Baptist Mission, which up until now has included work in Fiji and western Samoa. No change will be made in the country count until personnel are appointed for service in the new area.

Bob Stanley writes for the FMB.

Friendship will not stand the strain of very much good advice for very long. (Robert Lynd)

The only way to have a friend is to be one. (Emerson)

Trinity First Church, Waynesboro, celebrated Old Fashioned Day, March 29. Calico dresses, bonnets, aprons, fans, picture hats, and even a flapper dress and a string of chinaberry beads were among the women's apparel.

The men were dressed in their overalls, fedoras, straw katie, bowties, suspenders, and even a top-hat was observed. An old-time dinner was served.

Jake Williams, pastor, presented a book of poems in the winners chosen by a committee of three for having the most authentic costume. The winners, pictured, are Howard Tiner Sr. and Inez Martin.



Crowder Church, Crowder, observed GA recognition with a candlelight service, April 5. Included in the program was a slide presentation of the mission action project involving GAs.

Pictured, front row, left to right, are Suzie Alexander, Tracy Winters, Sara Bailey, Deanna Edwards, Ashley Elliott, and Tracey Austin.

Back row, are Bettie Austin, leader; Jennifer Beamer, Jennie Pitts, Laura Shields, Summers Meek, Whitney Smith, Karen Austin, Cherylon Mitchell, Cristal Adams, Kristy Sergeant, and Susan Elliott, leader.



Six members of the Beth Oakley Acteens at First Church, Bruce, were recognized for their achievements during the evening worship service, March 22. The theme of the service was "Gifted to Serve — Called to Act."

Acteens who were recognized and the Studiact levels which they have attained are (back row, from left) Reba Young, service aide; Hope Hurst, service aide; Ellen Jeffery, queen with a scepter; Charles Nestor, pastor; Mrs. Lily Oakley, Acteens director/leader; Anita Saxon, queen with a scepter; Cindy Allred, service aide; and Suzanne Oakley, service aide. Atten-

dants were (front row, from left) flower girls Elizabeth Mason, Amber Hurst, and Dena Mason; pages Chad Logan and Colby Hillhouse; and flower girls Kathryn Mize, Yancy Cooper, and Ashley Beckett. The six Acteens and their leader will carry out the theme of their recognition service by serving in a summer mission activity in Florida, in the Acteen Activators program. Not pictured are candle lighters J. Johnson and Michael LaBarge and ushers Dean Bennett and Chris Shelton, who also participated

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# God's judgment and forgiveness

By Robert M. Hanvey

Hosea 1:2 to 2:1

The month of May offers us an opportunity to deal with the book of Hosea. We are privileged to begin a new unit of study reflecting God's judgment and forgiveness, God's love for people who reject him, a plea for genuine repentance, God's agony over unfaithful people, and the promise of restoration. These subject areas will give us new insight into God's love, mercy and grace. They will also give us an insight into people. As we study these several lessons, we want to understand how God relates to and asks sinners to turn to him in repentance. We want to know how the redeemed can learn about our God.

The Bible passage for this particular lesson is found in Hosea 1:2 to 2:1. In Hosea 1:10 we are given these words, "In the place where it is said unto them, Ye are not my people. There it shall be said unto them, ye are the sons of the Living God." Though God's judgment of sin is certain, he will forgive and restore sinners who repent and turn to him. Is that not the case with



Hanvey

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respect to Hosea 1:1-10? God gave the warning, and he also gave the opportunity for people to turn to him.

We desire to lead adults to state the implications of both God's judgment and his willingness to forgive and to receive people. The Book of Hosea offers to you and to me some tremendous understandings with respect to (1) rejection of Almighty God, (2) the love which God has for people, and (3) the way God accepts repentance of man and restores people to himself.

The Lord commanded Hosea to marry a wife of whoredoms. What does this mean in our lesson today? Does it mean a prostitute; a cult prostitute; any woman of disobedience; a spiritually adulterous Israel? As you study the particular meaning, you will conclude whether the wife is to be taken literally or symbolically.

Hosea was commanded to take a woman for wife who had strayed, a woman for wife who had been unfaithful and who had not been the kind of person whom she ought to have been. In God's dealing with Hosea in order to reach the people of Israel, he instructed Hosea to

name the first child of that marriage, Jezreel, a name symbolizing God's judgment on Israel. The second child born of that union, a daughter, was to be named Lo-ruhamah, referring to the fact that he, God, would not have mercy on Israel. Then the Lord instructed that the third child, a son, be called Lo-ammi, symbolizing that Israel was not God's people.

In the lives of the children of the union between Hosea and Gomer, we find that God has run the spectrum between acceptance and rejection of those who know him. God is saying, "You are going to pay the penalty for your sin. You are going to pay the penalty for your spiritual adultery. You are going to pay the penalty for walking away from me as a people, as a nation." Perhaps in the life of this family, Hosea, Gomer, and the three children, God gives the total picture of their rejection and then his restoration.

God promises to save the house of Judah by his own power. God promised He would increase Israel's population greatly and make them a people again. He would receive Israel unto himself and unite Israel and Judah once more.

Through the study of this lesson, adults who are disobedient to God will be reminded of God's judgment. When we walk apart from God's law, when we walk apart from what God desires for us, when we walk apart from God

in sin, when we walk apart from God out of fellowship, we have to be reminded of God's judgment and his wrath. I think the first phase is simply that God finds disfavor with us. Then, the judgment is given and the wrath of God falls. Through studying this particular book we will see that God's promised forgiveness and restoration are always present when men do turn from their wickedness and their sin and seek God. God will provide forgiveness and God will provide restoration.

Through this lesson, too, we would also be encouraged as adults to be willing to forgive one another after God's willingness to forgive Israel. The extreme case noted here in the Book of Hosea is the case of a wayward wife, a wayward mother, and a wayward family. Seemingly, nothing is more tragic in our day than to see people who are in turmoil and difficulty. Turmoil literally tears asunder the principles of godly living and the godly home.

To see a home destroyed, to see a marriage destroyed, and to see children destroyed certainly hurts. In the walk away from God one would find himself to be self-destructing, but God is always there ready to forgive, ready to restore. So evident are these in the Book of Hosea. God does judge, God does forgive, God does restore.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

# Job's search for fair trial: the answer—to find God

By Charles Wesley

Job 22:2-5; 23:1-11; 27:2-6; 28:28

What do you do when your friends continue to refuse to understand your views? For Job the answer is to find God and trust God for a fair trial. Also, Job found strength and endurance from his clear conscience. When others falsely accuse us and God seems to be a million miles away, a clear conscience sustains us through the period of testing. First, let us survey the Scriptures for this week's lesson and then search for application for us today.



Wesley

After a while we begin to wonder when it will all end. Job's friends continue to bring their charges against him. Eliphaz, in his third speech, uses leading questions to make his point that Job was holding on to secret sins (22:2-5). Then Eliphaz lists the sins he supposes Job may have committed (22:6-11). Finally, Eliphaz exhorts Job to confess his sins so he can be at peace with God (22:21-30). Job responds to Eliphaz by stating that if he could

## BIBLE BOOK

find God, he knew that God would listen to his case. Since Job's friends would not accept his arguments he wanted to speak to God about the matter. Job's desire was for a fair trial to acquit him of the charges brought against him (23:3-4). Job was confident that God would strengthen him and be his friend.

Next, Bildad explains to Job that man is only a maggot and a worm when compared to the greatness of God. Therefore, an inferior man should not expect a hearing before God (25:1-6). The incorrect views that Bildad held to concerning the worth of man shows us the importance of not taking verses out of their context. Job responds to Bildad by saying that he will hold on to his integrity and righteousness. Job stated that he had a clear conscience that would not burden him with guilt (27:2-6).

Finally, Job declares that wisdom can only be discovered from God. Man developed the ability to mine and refine precious metals, but wisdom is harder to find than the metals hid in the earth. However, Job declares that when

we reverence God and turn from evil we will find wisdom in an omnipotent and omniscient God (28:1-28).

The problem of guilt drives people to the offices of ministers, medical doctors, psychologists, and other counselors. One can become overwhelmed with feelings of guilt. However, the guilt one carries can be true or false. We should experience the guilt associated with our sins. The Swiss psychiatrist, Paul Tournier, in his book *Guilt and Grace*, states that true guilt is our friend. Guilt can show us the need for forgiveness and move us toward experiencing the grace of God.

A person who has no sense of guilt over sins perceives no need for the cleansing that only God can accomplish. However, there is also a false guilt that people carry that is associated with their feelings of inadequacy and the false accusations of others. The devil enjoys having the aid of others in wrongly accusing someone. Sometimes that helper may be ourselves when we bring false charges against ourselves. Therefore, we must constantly evaluate our feelings of guilt to check if they are legitimate.

How important is a clear conscience? If we

would ask Job this question, I can imagine Job answering that his clear conscience enabled him to hold on to his hope through his suffering. Even though Job's testing was intense and Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar were hurling harsh words of insult and criticism, Job held on to his hope that God would vindicate him. Job would not let the wrong accusations of others send him off on a needless trip down guilt road. Peace of mind and a clear conscience from the guilt of sin are always compatible companions. We can never overestimate the importance of a clear conscience.

In addition, we can learn from this lesson that regardless of how good our intentions may be, we should always be careful about pointing out the sins of others. The devil already has enough advocates without our help. After all, when we point out the sins or faults of another, we may be projecting our own guilt on to someone else. Let us learn from the mistakes of Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, as well as learning from the hope and integrity of Job.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel, Cleveland.

# The church challenged to be Jesus' witnesses

By Nathan L. Barber

Acts 1:3-14

The book of Acts is Dr. Luke's companion volume to his gospel account (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1,2). Frank Stagg says that Luke's major purpose in writing Acts was "... to show a victory of Christianity — to show the expansion of a concept, the liberation of the gospel as it breaks through barriers that are religious, racial, and national. The author shows how Christianity broke through the narrow limitations which men sought to impose upon it and how it emerged in the liberty which Jesus had given it." In Luke, a Gentile Christian, one finds a writer to whom the progress of Christianity outside the Jewish community was of supreme interest.

After the resurrection Jesus had reproached the eleven apostles "... for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen him after he had risen" (Mark 16:14). It was not until the eleven had actually seen the resurrected Lord that



Barber

## LIFE AND WORK

they believed Jesus had truly risen from the dead. Even the great Apostle Paul did not believe in Jesus until he encountered the resurrected, living Christ on the road to Damascus, Syria (9:1-22).

Jesus knew his followers. Since they would be required to face persecution, rejection, and martyrdom (go give the supreme witness of one's life by dying for Christ) in the years ahead, they must never again be doubtful concerning the resurrection event. So "To these he presented himself alive, after his suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God" (v. 3; see also I Cor. 15:3-8). Jesus' closest disciples would always remember the painful words he had spoken to Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed" (John 20:29). As a rule, men are not willing to die for that which they do not believe.

He had given them many convincing proofs

already. Now he would give them power. It was Jesus who commanded his disciples to remain in Jerusalem and "... to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me'; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (vv. 4,5; see Mark 1:8). Jesus wanted his followers to understand that what he had begun while on this earth, he would also sustain and empower until the time "... which the Father has fixed by his own authority" (v. 7).

The task which he gave his disciples was synonymous with the challenge which he gave them "... to be Jesus' witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (v.8). The task was too ambitious for them and the challenge too great. For this very reason, however, they would receive the power (the English word dynamite comes from the Greek word for power) which they needed when the Holy Spirit had come upon them (v.8). This challenge/task would not be easy to accomplish; but those whom he calls, he enables.

"From Jerusalem to the remotest part of the earth" reveals an evangelistic strategy which

can never be satisfied by confining the Christian's witness to those closest to him. At the same time it is an evangelistic strategy which can never be satisfied by neglecting those closest to him either.

One person's "Jerusalem" is another person's "remotest part of the earth." It is God's plan to reach every person with "... the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself ..." (II Cor. 5:18b, 19a). For the laity to misunderstand that the witnesses referred to in verse 8 included only church staff, missionaries, etc., is to do great damage to the true teaching of the Scriptures.

After Jesus had said these things, he ascended into heaven. The angels, described as two men in white clothing, taught the disciples that Jesus would one day come back into time and history even as they had seen him exist this earthly sphere. Returning to Jerusalem, the disciples devoted themselves to prayer with one mind and one purpose. They remembered his words "... to wait for what the Father had promised" (v.4).

Nathan Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.



# Bill would overturn Grove City ruling

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — During a debate among Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee members over proposed civil rights legislation, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, a Republican, declared he is willing to play "hard ball" on the measure, adding that game is better than the "no ball" played during the years when his party held control of the Senate.

The Connecticut senator, who, during the committee's hearing on the Civil Rights Restoration Act, said he is "aggrieved" such legislation has not yet been passed, promised to support — both substantively and procedurally — the efforts of committee chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., to obtain swift passage of the measure.

The bill would overturn a 1984 Supreme Court decision that narrowed application of four federal civil rights laws. In *Grove City v. Bell*, the high court ruled that an education anti-discrimination ban applied only to the "program or activity" receiving federal funds, not the entire institution.

Although that ruling directly restricted Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, it also affected three other civil rights statutes — Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 — because each contained the same "program or activity" language.

Supporters say the legislation would restore the civil rights laws' previous scope by applying the anti-discrimination bans to the entire institution as was Congress' original intent. Opponents contend the bill would broaden the scope of the laws, especially in the area of abortion rights.

Disputes over abortion stalled similar legislation during the last two Congresses. Debate among members of the Senate panel, to which the measure was referred, may foretell comparable roadblocks in the 100th Congress.

"In the last Congress, this bill died largely because of disputes over abortion," said Weicker. "I find it absolutely shameful that a civil rights measure of such magnitude should become the vehicle for attempting to redefine national policy on the reproductive rights of women. It is time to get beyond those disputes —

too many have lost too much as a result of the Grove City decision to allow the bill to again be sidetracked."

Kennedy, who co-sponsored the bill with Weicker, called it "one of the most important civil rights bills of this decade." He said the legislation is a "restoration act" and includes no changes that would "strengthen civil rights."

But the committee's ranking Republican member, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, said the controversy is not over civil rights but rather the scope of federal regulatory jurisdiction. Hatch included himself among a majority in Congress whom he said favor overturning the Grove City decision but argued the proposed legislation would "make the federal government omnipresent."

"The real issue," Hatch said, "is whether we believe there is a limit to the power of the federal government to dictate policy for private organizations and state and local governments." He added he is committed to ensuring the effectiveness of federal civil rights laws in a manner that "avoids trammeling other equally important rights and liberties guaranteed by our Constitution."

Another committee member, Sen. Gordon J. Humphrey, R-N.H., argued in favor of the Grove City decision, denying it was "a major setback for civil rights." He also contended the legislation, despite its "shrewdly selected title," would "expand," not restore federal regulations.

Humphrey, ignoring several comments by Weicker, questioned witnesses about the potential impact the legislation could have in regard to abortion.

The National Right to Life Committee, in its newsletter says that the Restoration Act could be interpreted to force even church-affiliated hospitals and universities to provide abortions.

Witnesses appearing before the committee represented a variety of groups and interests, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, National Right to Life Committee, American Association of Retired Persons, and National Organization for Women. Additional hearings on the legislation are to be held by the committee.

Kathy Palen writes for the BP Washington bureau.

## Couple jailed in dispute over non-certified school

MOUNT PLEASANT, Iowa (EP) — Tot N. and Sharon Taylor have been jailed in Iowa for sending their children to a church school that does not use state-certified teachers. Both were sentenced for violation of the state's compulsory school attendance law.

The Taylors send their daughter Stephanie, 13, and son Nicholas, 8, to Blue Bird Christian School at their own 30-member First Assembly of God Church in Mount Pleasant.

The state is considering legislation which would end the certification re-

quirements for private school teachers, and allow schools to meet state standards by periodic standardized testing of children to ensure that they are getting an adequate education.

Sharon Taylor was jailed March 24, one day after her husband was released after serving his sentence. He said, "I am glad to be out, but my convictions are even stronger now than they were 31 days ago . . . We don't believe the state has a mandate to control our churches and ministries, and our school is a part of that."

## Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the April 2 issue of the Baptist Record.

Adams-Union; Shiloh; Chickasaw; Shiloh; Clarke: FBC Stone-wall; Copiah: Georgetown; Covington: Collins; Franklin: Hamburg; Grenada: Gore Springs;

Gulf Coast: Brodie Road; Hinds: Madison: Parkway; Lafayette: Delay; Lauderdale: FBC Meridian; Lee: Old Union; Lincoln: Bogue Chitto and Brookway; Monroe: Center Hill; Panola: Pharsalia; Smith: FBC Polkville; Tallahatchie: East Friendship; Tippah: Providence; Wayne: Riverside; Winston: Enon; Yazoo:

Center Ridge.

Associations Adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

Associations which have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those last reported in the Feb. 19 issue of the Baptist Record.

Jones, Washington, Monroe, and Attala.

## "Mississippi's Largest Family"

The Baptist Children's Village

### Humbly Requests Your Remembrance

On

### "Mother's Day"

### May 10, 1987

**\*\*Please Pray** for our children, staff and trustees on this special day.

**\*\*Please be a Participant** in our CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK EMPHASIS.

**\*\*Please Provide** an opportunity for your church to give generously on MOTHER'S DAY (May 10, 1987) for the financial support of THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING envelopes were mailed to Pastors and Sunday School Directors on Wednesday, April 22. If your church needs more materials (offering envelopes and brochures) please write or call.

## 1987 Mother's Day Goal

## \$300,000.00

Of course each church is free to promote the MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING as desired. A suggested way is to pass out offering envelopes on Sunday, May 3, 1987 and STRESS that an OPPORTUNITY will be given on Sunday, May 10, 1987 for each individual to give for services to dependent and neglected children via The Baptist Children's Village.

Mail Gifts to

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

The Baptist Children's Village

P. O. Box 11308

Jackson, Mississippi 39213

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# Baptist Record

## Surgeon general responds to conservatives' criticisms

By David Wilkinson

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Faced with the gravity of the AIDS crisis, American Christians who are concerned about AIDS education in the public schools should consider "the weight of scientific evidence" rather than the criticisms of "a few people who seem to have as their life goal the genocide of homosexuals," U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told a Southern Baptist conference on family issues.

Koop responded to his critics during an address and a question-and-answer session at a national seminar in Charlotte, N.C., sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Koop, a conservative Presbyterian, has been attacked by some conservative religious leaders for his advocacy of stepped-up sex education in the face of the country's growing AIDS problem.

"Before some of my critics even knew what sex was, I was decrying the kind of sex education that somehow has gotten off track," he said, stressing his "sincerest wish is that parents be the primary teachers of children about sex." The problem, he said, is that many parents "default" on that important responsibility, leaving children to learn about their sexuality from the media and other sources.

The need for increased sex education is critical, Koop said, because of the unique threat of AIDS. More than 32,000 AIDS cases have been reported in the United States, and more than half of those victims already have died, he said. The Public Health Service has predicted that more than 250,000 Americans will have contracted AIDS by 1990.

While the disease has dominated two primary groups — homosexuals and intravenous drug abusers — the

AIDS virus is spreading rapidly into the heterosexual community, Koop emphasized: "We must be very clear about this disease in at least two respects. It is spreading among more Americans, and it is killing more Americans as it spreads."

Koop noted his report on AIDS, released last October, included fewer than 200 words on the issue of sex education, "yet those few words have captured most of the attention of the media, of parents, of educators and of public officials at all levels of government."

The reason for such concern, he said, "is that the issue goes to the heart of each person's own system of moral and ethical values or lack thereof."

Koop has drawn criticism for his recent stands by the Coalition for Teen Health, headed by Phyllis Schlafly, founder and president of the conservative activist organization, Eagle Forum. Southern Baptists on the new coalition are Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, and his wife, Dorothy, of Dallas; Nancy and Anne Pressler, the wife and daughter, respectively, of Houston appeals court judge Paul Pressler; former U.S. Congressman Albert Lee Smith Jr., a Birmingham, Ala., insurance executive, and his wife, Eunice; and Ed McAteer of Memphis, Tenn., founder and president of The Roundtable.

Responding to a question about the recent criticism of his statements, Koop drew sustained applause when he said, "I'm not here in this government to make people like Phyllis Schlafly happy. I'm here to keep people like you alive."

Koop also stressed the narrow focus of his role as a health officer, pointing out "I don't have the luxury as the

surgeon general of delivering moral treatises."

In his address, Koop noted "homosexuality is an issue you can't avoid if you're going to discuss AIDS."

"If you regard homosexuality as a sin, then please teach that the sin must be separated from the sinner," he said. "The sick and the dying require our care and compassion, no matter how the disease was contracted."

Koop challenged Southern Baptists, who comprise the nation's largest non-Catholic religious body, to "write the definitive sex education curriculum."

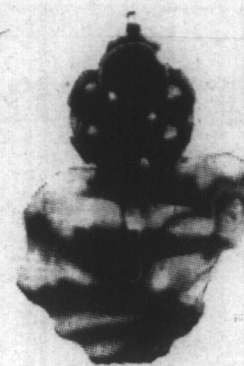
"No one is better equipped to be in the vanguard of this important initiative than you are," he said. "Do it according to your standards. You won't get it into many public schools if you write it the way I think you will write it, but it will compete for the minds of your children and someday you will be able to say, 'We achieved this health goal for our people, and we did it without abandoning our tradition or our beliefs.'"

In producing such an educational program, he said, "You might just be responsible for producing a generation that will understand its own sexuality and be able to pass that on to the next generation without embarrassment and without restraint."

David Wilkinson writes for BP.

**We can never replace a friend.** When a man is fortunate enough to have several, he finds they are all different. Not one has a double in friendship. (Schiller)

**A true friend is one whom we have confidence and to whom we will listen.** (K. Alvin Pitt)



## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly  
as a loaded gun.  
Don't take chances  
with your life*

### Alternatives for living

In order for one to make life worthwhile, a person must choose the right alternative. A person has a choice. Examples by the dozen reflect choices made. Some of these are disastrous. Providentially, other choices are promising and are filled with hope. I think of a grown man with a wife and several children. The time had come to settle down with steady work and rearing a family. This man's alcoholism, however, progressed to the point that he needed help. In the past were car wrecks, bodily injuries, and a lot of denial. Drinking was daily. In fact, the day's activities centered around alcohol. Often, morning began with drinking "screwdrivers" for breakfast. The next to get rid of the shakes before going to work meant taking another drink.

Drinking was important at midday to survive the afternoon. This man was at the bar by 5 p.m. many days. When he went home he drank until he was unconscious. People who knew him said that he had changed since he began drinking. To his family and friends, he was full of alibis and excuses for his behavior. He felt desperately alone, burdened with guilt and fear. The person described was a

man who had a choice: to get help or to keep on drinking until . . .

The time may be too late to undo untold agony a person brings upon himself or others. However, this is not written to end with the thought, "what a shame!" but with the idea that life has alternatives. The alternative is there for us to possess hope. God himself is on the side of life and hope. No one can tell what lies on the other side of the door leading to the unknown; but faith says that God is there, and he has a plan. His plan is for every life and for all seasons of life. God gives the power to live a quality of human existence that is above the ordinary. The God who raised Jesus alive from the dead can do the same for all persons who recognize where they stumble and fall. — Joe Stovall

Questions and comments addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Chemical Dependency Center. Letters should be sent to:

Intensive Care  
Baptist Record  
Box 530  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

### Mississippi Baptist activities

- May 3 Senior Adult Day (CT-Family Ministry Emphasis)
- May 3-10 Christian Home Week (CT-Family Ministry SS Emphasis)
- May 4 WMU Special Day and Edwina Robinson Offering (WMU Emphasis)
- May 7 Mississippi Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship; FBC, Jackson; 6:15-9:00 p.m. (BRO)
- May 8-9 Chaplains Retreat; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 8th-3 p.m., 9th (CoMi)
- May 9 Small Church Leadership Conference; Mississippi College; 9:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. (PD)

## SCRAPBOOK

### In his hands

The late afternoon sun was almost out of sight when we drove into the carport. As I looked up the hill, I saw what seemed to be an unusual sight. It looked like a large red flower blooming in the middle of the lawn. How could such a thing be? We had never had flowers there and, besides, the lawn mower would surely have destroyed any that dared to grow in its path.

I made my way quickly up the hill to satisfy my curiosity. And what did I find? — just a dead leaf. I picked it up and held it in my hand — just a dead oak leaf. As long as it was in a position to reflect the glory of the setting sun, it glowed and was a beautiful thing, but the moment I took it in my hand all its radiance disappeared.

And then I got the message: As long as my life is in position to reflect the glory of the Lord, it can be as beautiful as the glowing flower, but the moment I take it in my hand, it is but a dead leaf.

—Laverne Pickle  
Kosciusko

### The old country church

The old country church of many years has come and gone since this child of yesterday. And the morning glories on the fence still bloom while the dew hangs on the spider webs as bright as the light that shines from the stained glass windows.

I follow Mother Nature year after year. With all her motherly magic she paints her lovely pictures of spring, summer, and fall. In the spring the daisies carpet the fields of green. I pick the flowers, and the petals are as soft as an angel's wings.

In the yonder hills I capture the echo of the mourning dove. And her eternal cry can be heard as she awakens the essence of Easter morn. And this small creature of God's brings to reality the belief in life, and God in all his glory is real to us in this old country church.

—Dorothy Belcher  
Kosciusko

Baptist Record

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April 30, 1987

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